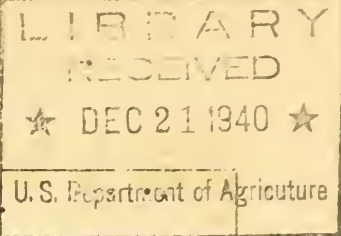


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Wildlife Leaflet BS-175

Washington, D. C.

*

November 1940

BIG-GAME INVENTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1939

Compiled in the Section of Wildlife Surveys
Division of Wildlife Research

An inventory by States of 15 groups and races of big-game animals in the United States was first made by the Section of Wildlife Surveys in 1938 for the calendar year 1937, and the results were issued in Wildlife Research and Management Leaflet BS-122. The second inventory, covering the calendar year 1938, was reported on in Wildlife Leaflet BS-142 in August 1939. During these two inventories data for State and private lands were compiled for each State by field investigators of the Division of Wildlife Research. Information for these classes of lands as well as that for Indian reservations during the present 1939 inventory has been collected through the regional offices of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Most of the States realize the value of these inventories and make diligent efforts to procure dependable data. No report has been received for 1939 on State and private lands from three States, but estimates for these have been attempted by the Section of Wildlife Surveys as indicated by footnote 1 to certain tables.

There are so few important reports from military reservations that these have been included with State and private lands. As in previous years, use has been made of statistics issued annually by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Grazing Service and the Indian Service, Department of the Interior, have cooperated fully in an effort to supply accurate information for lands under their control. Counts of important wildlife species on refuges of the Fish and Wildlife Service are made annually by the Division of Wildlife Refuges.

Although the total estimate for 1939 is 201,888, or 3.4 percent less than that of last year, the difference in figures is insignificant and does not necessarily represent a decrease in game species. Some of the discrepancy can be credited to corrections of certain estimates in last year's inventory, and some may be due to more conservative estimates. Sixty percent of all big game in the United States was noted on State and private lands largely no doubt because 60.4 percent of all big game in the country consists of white-tailed deer, of which 85

percent is on such lands. The only other numerous big-game animal found chiefly on State and private lands is the peccary, of which 79 percent were recorded on these holdings. Thirteen woodland caribou, the only ones known to be in the United States, are on State-administered land. The apparent decrease in the number of the bison is accounted for by omission of those in zoological gardens and city parks.

TABLE 1.--White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and related groups

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Alabama.....	.....	1,100	.....	.....	.....	8,555	9,655
Arizona.....	.....	28,000	100	1,750	100	1,800	31,750
Arkansas.....	500	4,500	.....	.....	.....	9,898	14,898
Connecticut...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,500	7,500
Delaware.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	39
Florida.....	70	5,600	.....	275	.....	14,719	20,664
Georgia.....	1,650	1,000	.....	.....	.....	6,284	8,934
Idaho.....	.....	18,260	.....	.....	.....	6,100	24,360
Illinois.....	.....	16	.....	.....	.....	350	366
Indiana.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	650	650
Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	850	850
Kansas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	8
Kentucky.....	600	10	6	.....	.....	1,100	1,716
Louisiana.....	650	100	.....	.....	.....	1/14,000	14,750
Maine.....	1,500	100	800	.....	.....	105,101	107,501
Maryland.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	622	622
Massachusetts.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,700	11,700
Michigan.....	2,400	120,000	.....	.....	.....	712,600	835,000
Minnesota.....	586	69,000	.....	2,700	.....	375,120	447,406
Mississippi...	.....	480	.....	.....	.....	3,800	4,280
Missouri.....	.....	1,300	.....	.....	.....	3,458	4,758
Montana.....	182	23,300	1,600	605	.....	947	26,634
Nebraska.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	180	189
New Hampshire.	.....	1,100	.....	.....	.....	19,000	20,100
New Jersey....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,000	12,000
New Mexico....	.....	16,000	.....	250	250	2,000	18,500
New York.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	150,000	150,050
North Carolina	62	8,300	.....	6	.....	51,277	59,645
North Dakota..	1,064	.....	.....	260	.....	1/12,000	13,324
Ohio.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,600	5,600
Oklahoma.....	774	500	.....	14	.....	7,000	8,288
Oregon.....	.....	100	6	5	.....	100	211
Pennsylvania..	.....	37,000	.....	.....	.....	788,000	825,000
Rhode Island..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	642	642
South Carolina	100	2,100	.....	.....	.....	54,267	56,467
South Dakota..	24	4,600	.....	545	.....	455	5,624
Tennessee.....	.....	1,500	40	.....	.....	2,475	4,015
Texas.....	3,500	3,400	.....	.....	.....	231,665	238,565
Vermont.....	.....	3,700	.....	.....	.....	20,000	23,700
Virginia.....	.....	2,600	.....	.....	.....	8,727	11,327
Washington....	2,000	6,000	.....	2,925	.....	1,200	12,125
West Virginia.	.....	5,500	.....	.....	.....	19,500	25,000
Wisconsin.....	230	110,000	.....	1/1,200	.....	1/400,000	511,430
Wyoming.....	.....	1,515	.....	500	.....	300	2,315
Total.....	15,951	476,681	2,552	11,035	350	3,071,580	3,578,149

1/ Estimated, no report received.

TABLE 2.--Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus except columbianus*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	25	40,000	450	1,190	1,200	9,800	52,665
California....	100	226,000	9,356	36	8,000	40,000	283,492
Colorado.....	.....	131,000	1,630	1,025	59,325	32,020	225,000
Idaho.....	7	72,400	.....	30	12,000	20,800	105,237
Kansas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
Montana.....	306	62,000	1,100	1,015	5,155	680	70,256
Nebraska.....	7	420	.....	.....	.....	1,750	2,177
Nevada.....	2,875	26,000	.....	.....	17,500	13,500	59,875
New Mexico....	115	53,000	348	1,077	9,000	30,050	93,590
North Dakota..	5	.....	.....	50	.....	.....	55
Oklahoma.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	15	19
Oregon.....	2,526	117,000	20	5,187	21,500	25,000	171,233
South Dakota..	.....	2,450	50	55	.....	48	2,603
Texas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,553	17,553
Utah.....	.....	124,000	760	375	55,780	15,000	195,915
Washington....	50	46,680	.....	1,100	.....	8,400	56,230
Wyoming.....	.....	42,500	1,225	200	10,200	5,875	60,000
Total.....	6,016	943,450	14,939	11,344	199,660	220,493	1,395,902

TABLE 3.--Columbian black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks	Indian reserva- tions	State and private lands	Total
California....	.....	147,000	650	449	39,250	187,349
Oregon.....	15	36,000	80	137	25,000	61,232
Washington....	120	13,000	1,650	1,500	36,350	52,620
Total.....	135	196,000	2,380	2,086	100,600	301,201

TABLE 4.--Woodland caribou (*Rangifer caribou*)

State	State and private lands	Total
Minnesota.....	15	15
Total.....	15	15

TABLE 5.--Elk (*Cervus canadensis*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National Parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	.....	4,300	.....	360	50	25	4,735
Arkansas.....	.....	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
California...	.....	350	.....	.....	.....	250	600
Colorado.....	.....	19,000	1,000	.....	715	9,285	30,000
Georgia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Idaho.....	.....	24,300	.....	.....	25	1,800	26,125
Kansas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	5
Michigan.....	.....	22	.....	.....	.....	328	350
Minnesota....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125	125
Mississippi..	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	20
Montana.....	53	22,000	1,950	500	415	213	25,131
Nebraska.....	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Nevada.....	10	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	210
New Hampshire	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	328	328
New Mexico...	.....	1,000	.....	.....	20	2,000	3,020
New York.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200	200
North Carolina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	35
North Dakota.	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Oklahoma.....	207	.....	.....	4	.....	20	231
Oregon.....	5	21,000	6	3	.....	7,000	28,014
Pennsylvania.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	15
South Dakota.	.....	350	135	40	.....	.....	525
Tennessee....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
Texas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	280	280
Utah.....	.....	5,000	5	.....	143	250	5,398
Virginia.....	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	196	246
Washington...	.....	12,010	4,025	300	.....	1,500	17,835
Wyoming.....	9,000	35,000	12,550	400	900	.....	57,850
Total.....	9,329	144,622	19,671	1,607	2,290	23,857	201,576

TABLE 6.--Moose (*Alces americana*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Idaho.....	.....	730	.....	.....	.....	55	785
Maine.....	5	2	.....	.....	.....	1,835	1,842
Michigan.....	.....	10	100	.....	.....	140	250
Minnesota....	3	1,100	.....	75	.....	4,015	5,193
Montana.....	15	2,200	230	20	90	12	2,567
New Hampshire	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	48	56
Utah.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wisconsin....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Wyoming.....	25	2,680	810	10	.....	.....	3,525
Total.....	48	6,734	1,140	105	90	6,105	14,222

TABLE 7.--Prong-horned antelope (*Antilocapra americana*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	33	5,100	20	25	80	2,000	7,258
California....	8	2,200	.....	.....	5,000	5,000	12,208
Colorado.....	.....	120	.....	.....	500	4,380	5,000
Idaho.....	40	5,800	.....	.....	7,000	1,630	14,470
Montana.....	405	1,000	.....	45	4,230	1,462	7,142
Nebraska.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	750	759
Nevada.....	8,019	200	.....	.....	6,000	2,500	16,719
New Mexico....	4	1,600	14	318	10,100	15,007	27,043
North Dakota..	3	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	18
Oklahoma.....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	44
Oregon.....	2,075	1,600	.....	63	17,050	5,000	25,788
South Dakota..	.....	30	60	125	.....	2,341	2,556
Texas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,778	9,778
Utah.....	.....	200	10	.....	1,145	.....	1,355
Washington....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2/40	40
Wyoming.....	350	890	800	300	27,000	5,425	34,765
Total.....	10,960	18,740	904	891	78,105	55,343	164,943

2/ Introduced since last estimate.

TABLE 8.--Rocky mountain bighorn (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*
and *O. c. sierrae*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
California....		360	.....	.....	.....	.....	360
Colorado.....		1,900	385	.....	.....	.....	2,285
Idaho.....		1,580	.....	.....	100	15	1,695
Montana.....	6	950	200	90	.....	.....	1,246
New Mexico....						3	3
Oregon.....		30	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Utah.....		50	24	.....	175	.....	249
Washington....		20	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Wyoming.....		2,200	270	.....	.....	.....	2,470
Total.....	6	7,090	879	90	275	18	8,350

TABLE 9.--Desert bighorn (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*, *O. c. gaillardi*,
and *O. c. texianus*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	500	220	495	215	400	15	1,845
California....	.....	40	500	.....	.....	1,456	1,996
Nevada.....	300	250	.....	.....	400	150	1,100
New Mexico....	.....	70	.....	.....	130	50	250
Texas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	150
Total.....	800	580	995	215	930	1,821	5,341

TABLE 10.--Mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)

State	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	State and private lands	Total
Idaho.....	3,000	.....	.....	10	3,010
Montana.....	4,000	750	500	.....	5,250
South Dakota.....	23	.....	.....	.....	23
Washington.....	5,420	450	.....	.....	5,870
Total.....	12,443	1,200	500	10	14,153

TABLE 11.--Peccary, or javelina (*Pecari angulatus*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	100	7,100	2,200	320	4,600	14,320
New Mexico....	.....	400	.....	.....	.....	400
Texas.....	100	.....	.....	.....	35,000	35,100
Total.....	200	7,500	2,200	320	39,600	49,820

TABLE 12.--European wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)

State	National forests	State and private lands	Total
California.....	100	100	200
Georgia.....	.....	70	70
Kentucky.....	.....	75	75
Mississippi.....	50	.....	50
New Hampshire.....	.....	150	150
North Carolina.....	130	475	605
Tennessee.....	500	.....	500
Total.....	780	870	1,650

TABLE 13.--Black bear (*Euarctos americanus*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Alabama.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	275	275
Arizona.....	.....	860	10	875	150	12	1,907
Arkansas.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	11
California....	.....	11,290	690	100	.....	4,200	16,280
Colorado.....	.....	4,900	88	110	.....	.....	5,098
Florida.....	10	90	.....	.....	.....	338	438
Georgia.....	300	10	.....	.....	.....	521	831
Idaho.....	.....	5,200	.....	.....	100	1,020	6,320
Kentucky.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	30
Louisiana.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	<u>1/</u> 500	500
Maine.....	5	30	.....	.....	.....	<u>1/</u> 4,000	4,035
Michigan.....	10	1,000	.....	.....	.....	3,190	4,200
Minnesota.....	4	1,600	.....	200	.....	6,732	8,536
Mississippi...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49	49
Montana.....	10	5,300	350	600	.....	70	6,330
Nevada.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	10
New Hampshire.	.....	250	.....	.....	.....	447	697
New Mexico....	.....	1,300	5	331	600	1,500	3,736
New York.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000	1,000
North Carolina	6	290	.....	30	.....	6,051	6,377
Ohio.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	15
Oregon.....	4	5,400	50	70	.....	2,000	7,524
Pennsylvania..	.....	400	.....	.....	.....	1,850	2,250
South Carolina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	<u>1/</u> 100	100
Tennessee.....	.....	180	225	.....	.....	44	449
Texas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	210	210
Utah.....	.....	450	.....	.....	.....	50	500
Vermont.....	.....	300	.....	.....	.....	500	800
Virginia.....	.....	550	.....	.....	.....	678	1,228
Washington....	40	7,970	200	1,800	.....	7,400	17,410
West Virginia.	.....	800	.....	.....	.....	2,000	2,800
Wisconsin.....	.....	1,000	.....	<u>1/</u> 100	.....	<u>1/</u> 800	1,900
Wyoming.....	.....	2,600	560	100	.....	.....	3,260
Total.....	394	51,770	2,178	4,316	850	45,598	105,106

1/ Estimated, no report received.

TABLE 14.--Grizzly bear (*Ursus horribilis*)

State	National forests	National parks	Indian reservations	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	1	.....	6	.....	7
Colorado.....	10	.....	.....	.....	10
Idaho.....	44	.....	.....	.....	44
Montana.....	470	100	40	.....	610
New Mexico.....	2	.....	.....	1	3
Washington.....	9	.....	.....	.....	9
Wyoming.....	167	310	3	.....	480
Total.....	703	410	49	1	1,163

TABLE 15.--American bison, or buffalo (*Bison bison*)

State	Biological Survey refuges	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona.....	.....	.....	.....	200	.....	200
Colorado.....	.....	18	.....	.....	.....	18
Kansas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	29
Mississippi..	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	20
Montana.....	369	.....	.....	.....	.....	369
Nebraska.....	122	.....	.....	.....	.....	122
Nevada.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
New Hampshire	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	22
New Mexico...	.....	.....	11	3	75	89
North Dakota.	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Oklahoma.....	429	21	70	.....	200	720
Pennsylvania.	.....	.....	.....	.....	125	125
South Dakota.	.....	204	314	.....	.....	518
Texas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	186	186
Utah.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	30
Virginia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Wyoming.....	.....	850	.....	.....	.....	850
Total.....	938	1,093	395	203	690 3/	3,319

3/ Does not include those in city parks, zoological gardens, and the like. Total count of all bison in the United States as of June 1, 1939, was 4,829. See Status of the American Bison in the United States and Alaska, Wildlife Leaflet BS-148, December, 1939.

TABLE 16.--- Big-game inventory according to land ownership and control

Species	Biological Survey refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
White-tailed deer.....	15,951	476,681	2,552	11,035	350	3,071,580	3,578,149
Mule deer.....	6,016	943,450	14,939	11,544	199,660	220,493	1,395,902
Columbian black-tailed deer..	135	196,000	2,380	2,036	.....	100,600	301,201
Woodland caribou.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	15
Elk.....	9,329	144,622	19,671	1,607	2,290	23,857	201,376
Moose.....	48	6,734	1,140	105	90	6,105	14,222
Prong-horned antelope.....	10,960	18,740	904	891	78,105	55,343	164,943
Rocky Mountain bighorn.....	6	7,090	879	90	275	18	3,558
Desert bighorn.....	800	530	995	215	930	1,821	5,341
Mountain goat.....	.....	12,443	1,200	500	.....	10	14,153
Peccary, or javelina.....	200	7,500	.....	2,200	320	39,600	49,820
European wild boar.....	.....	70	.....	.....	.....	670	1,650
Black bear.....	394	51,770	2,178	4,316	850	45,593	105,106
Grizzly bear.....	.....	703	410	49	.....	1	1,163
American bison, or buffalo...	935	.....	1,093	395	203	690	3,319
Total.....	44,777	1,867,093	48,341	34,833	283,073	3,566,601	5,844,718

TABLE 17.--Summary by States of big-game animals in annual inventory, 1939

State	White-tailed deer	Mule deer	Columbian black-tailed deer	Wood-land caribou	Elk	Moose	Prong-horned antelope	Rocky Mountain bighorn	Desert bighorn	Mountain goat	Peccary, or javelina	Euro-pean wild boar	Black bear	Grizzly bear	American bison, or buffalo	Total
Alabama.....	9,655	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	275	.....	.....	9,930
Arizona.....	31,750	52,665	.....	.....	4,735	.....	7,258	.....	1,845	.....	14,320	.....	1,907	7	200	114,687
Arkansas.....	14,898	.....	.....	.....	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	14,949
California.....	.....	283,492	187,349	.....	600	.....	12,208	360	1,996	.....	.....	200	16,280	.....	.....	502,485
Colorado.....	.....	225,000	.....	.....	30,000	.....	5,000	2,285	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,098	10	18	267,411
Connecticut.....	7,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,500
Delaware.....	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Florida.....	20,664	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	438	.....	.....	21,102
Georgia.....	8,934	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	831	44	.....	9,837
Iaho.....	24,360	105,237	.....	.....	26,125	785	14,470	1,695	.....	3,010	.....	.....	6,350	.....	.....	182,046
Illinois.....	366	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	366
Indiana.....	650	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	650
Iowa.....	850	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	850
Kansas.....	8	2	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	44
Kentucky.....	1,716	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	.....	1,821
Louisiana.....	14,750	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500	.....	.....	15,250
Maine.....	107,501	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,842	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,035	.....	.....	113,378
Maryland.....	622	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	622
Massachusetts.....	11,700	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,700
Michigan.....	835,000	.....	.....	15	350	250	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,200	.....	.....	839,800
Minnesota.....	447,406	.....	.....	.....	125	5,193	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,536	.....	.....	461,275
Mississippi.....	4,280	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	49	.....	20	4,419
Missouri.....	4,758	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,758
Montana.....	26,634	70,256	.....	.....	25,131	2,567	7,142	1,246	.....	5,250	.....	.....	6,330	610	369	145,535
Nebraska.....	189	2,177	.....	.....	36	.....	759	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	122	3,283
Nevada.....	.....	59,875	.....	.....	210	.....	16,719	.....	1,100	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	2	77,916
New Hampshire.....	20,100	.....	.....	.....	328	56	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	697	.....	22	21,353
New Jersey.....	12,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,000
New Mexico.....	18,500	93,590	.....	.....	3,020	.....	27,043	3	250	.....	400	.....	3,736	3	89	146,634
New York.....	150,050	.....	.....	.....	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000	.....	.....	151,250
North Carolina.....	59,645	.....	.....	.....	35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,377	.....	.....	66,662
North Dakota.....	13,324	55	.....	.....	18	.....	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	13,433
Ohio.....	5,600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,615
Oklahoma.....	8,288	19	.....	.....	231	.....	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	9,302
Oregon.....	211	171,233	61,232	.....	28,014	.....	25,783	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,524	.....	720	294,032
Pennsylvania.....	825,000	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,250	.....	125	827,390
Rhode Island.....	642	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	642
South Carolina.....	56,467	.....	.....	.....	525	.....	2,556	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	56,567
South Dakota.....	5,624	2,603	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	449	.....	518	11,849
Tennessee.....	4,015	.....	.....	.....	280	.....	9,778	.....	.....	.....	35,100	.....	210	.....	.....	4,966
Texas.....	238,565	17,553	.....	.....	5,398	1	1,355	249	150	.....	.....	.....	500	.....	186	301,822
Utah.....	.....	195,915	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	800	.....	30	203,448
Vermont.....	23,700	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,228	.....	.....	24,500
Virginia.....	11,327	.....	.....	.....	246	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	12,802
Washington.....	12,125	56,230	52,600	.....	17,835	.....	40	20	.....	5,870	.....	.....	17,410	9	.....	162,159
West Virginia.....	25,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,800	.....	.....	27,800
Wisconsin.....	511,430	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,900	.....	.....	513,333
Wyoming.....	2,315	60,000	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,260	480	850	165,515
Total.....	3,578,149	1,395,902	301,201	15	201,376	14,222	164,943	8,358	5,341	14,153	49,820	1,650	105,106	1,163	3,319	5,844,718

